

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Claims 1-7, 16-19, and 24-33 have been allowed.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Wilson on 5/21/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

routing a set-up message to a plurality of nodes in at least one transport network, wherein said set-up message reserves network resources for multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network as said set-up message visits each of said plurality of nodes, wherein each different traffic path comprises a unique subset of nodes leading to the a destination node; and

routing said set-up message to said plurality of nodes in said at least one transport network, wherein said set-up message provisions said reserved network resources for the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network as said set-up message revisits each of said plurality of nodes of each traffic path;

wherein the reserved network resources for the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network are provisioned only if all of the resources needed for each of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network have been successfully reserved.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network is a working path and wherein at least one of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network is a protection path for said working path.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said set-up message revisits each of said plurality of nodes in the reverse order in which said set-up message visits each of said plurality of nodes.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said transport network is a mesh network.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said transport network is a ring network.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network is a multicast traffic path.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein some of said plurality of nodes are in a first transport network and some of said nodes are in a second transport network.

8 – 15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method comprising:

routing a set-up message to a plurality of nodes in at least one transport network, wherein said set-up message reserves network resources for multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network as said set-up message visits each of said plurality of nodes, wherein each different traffic path comprises a unique subset of nodes leading to a same destination node; and

revisiting said plurality of nodes with one or more set-up messages, wherein said one or more set-up messages provision said reserved network resources for the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network as said one or more set-up messages revisit each of said plurality of nodes of each traffic path;

wherein the reserved network resources for the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network are provisioned only if all of the resources needed for each of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network have been successfully reserved.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network is a working path and wherein at least one of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network is a protection path for said working path.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network is a multicast traffic path.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein some of said plurality of nodes are in a first transport network and some of said nodes are in a second transport network.

**20. – 23. (canceled)**

**24. (currently amended)** A method comprising:

checking the nodes of multiple proposed different traffic paths through at least one transport network to ensure that each node can provide the resources needed to establish the multiple proposed different traffic paths through said at least one transport network, wherein the nodes are checked by sending a set-up message to the nodes and wherein each of the proposed different traffic paths comprises a unique subset of nodes leading to a same destination node;

reserving, at each node, the resources needed to establish the multiple proposed different traffic paths through said at least one transport network if the resources are available; and

provisioning, at each node, the resources needed to establish each one of the multiple proposed different traffic paths through said at least one transport network only if all of the resources needed to establish each one of the multiple proposed different traffic paths through said at least one transport network have been successfully reserved.

**25. (previously presented)** The method of claim 24 wherein the nodes are checked one node after another.

**26. (previously presented)** The method of claim 24 wherein the set-up message includes an indication of the order in which to check the nodes.

**27. (previously presented)** The method of claim 26 wherein provisioning the resources comprises routing the set-up message to the nodes in the reverse order in which the nodes were checked.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network is a multi-hop path that comprises a different set of nodes.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least two of the different traffic paths through said at least one transport network connect the destination node via different sets of intermediate nodes.

Deleted: a common pair of nodes

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein each of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network is a multi-hop path that comprises a different set of nodes.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein at least two of the different traffic paths through said at least one transport network connect the destination node via different sets of intermediate nodes.

Deleted: a common pair of nodes

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein each of the multiple different traffic paths through said at least one transport network is a multi-hop path that comprises a different set of nodes.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein at least two of the different traffic paths through said at least one transport network connect the destination node via different sets of intermediate nodes.

Deleted: a common pair of nodes

#### REASONS OF ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-7, 16-19, and 24-33 have been allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

.This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Amendment filed on 2/29/08 with respect to the amended claim limitations and further amended claim limitations in the Examiner's Amendment filed herewith point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ASAD M. NAWAZ whose telephone number is (571)272-3988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2155

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AMN

/saleh najjar/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2155